

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending. No amendments to the claims have been made.

The Office Action rejects claims 1 through 11 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wingard (U.S. Patent No. 6,182,183). Applicants respectfully assert that Wingard fails to disclose or suggest the features of claims 1 through 11 which include the data consuming functional unit (CFU) indicating a communication thread identifier (TID) to the data producing functional unit and the data producing functional unit providing data related to said communication thread identifier to said data consuming functional unit.

Wingard describes a master-slave arrangement where the data is sent from the master to the slave, along with the thread number associated with the current transaction. Wingard describes the following:

DataOut is data sent from a master to a slave, typically in a write transfer. DataIn typically carries read data. Response (Resp) and DataIn are signals sent from slave 1104 to master 1102. Resp indicates that a transfer request that was received by slave 1104 has been serviced. Response accept (RespAccept) is a handshake signal used to indicate whether the master allows the slave to release Resp and DataIn.

Request Thread Identifier (ReqThreadID), in one embodiment, is a four-bit signal that provides the thread number associated with a current transaction intended for slave 1104. All commands executed with a particular thread ID must execute in order with respect to one another, but they may execute out of order with respect to commands from other threads. **Response Thread Identifier (RespThreadID) provides a thread number associated with a current response.** Because responses in a thread may return out of order with respect to other threads, RespThreadID is necessary to identify which thread's command is being responded to. In one embodiment, ReqThreadID and RespThreadID are optional signals, but if one is used, both must be used. (Wingard col. 13, lines 10-55)(emphasis added).

The data being sent out from the master to the slave, and the thread number being sent out from the master to the slave that is associated with that data is shown in FIG. 11 of Wingard (emphasis added):

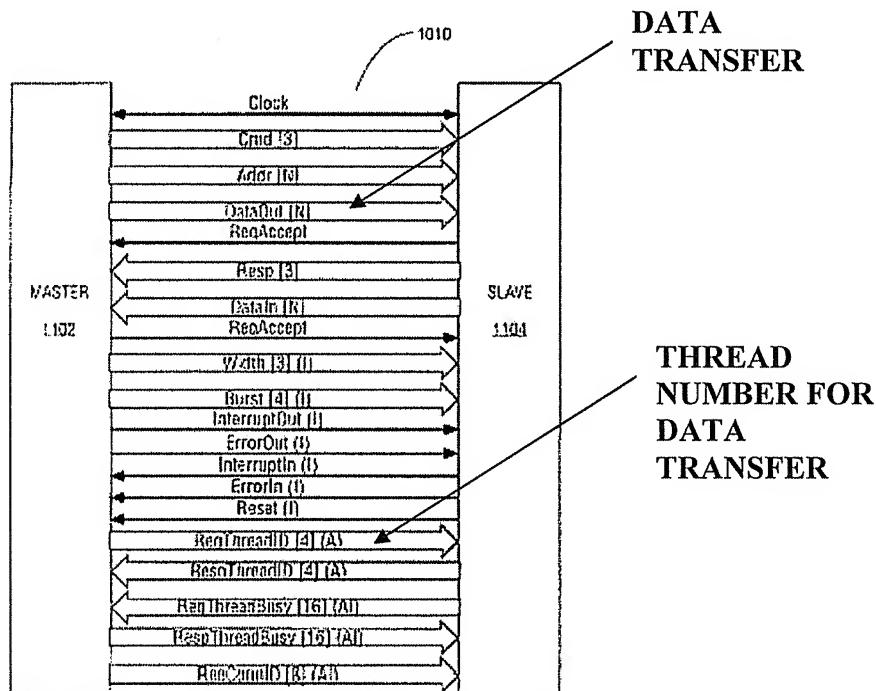


FIG. 11

This use of data transfers and thread numbers in Wingard is in contrast to the features of claims 1 through 11 in which the data consuming functional unit (CFU) indicates a communication thread identifier (TID) to the data producing functional unit and the data producing functional unit provides data related to said communication thread identifier to said data consuming functional unit, as shown for example in the non-limiting embodiment of FIG. 2 of the present application (emphasis added):

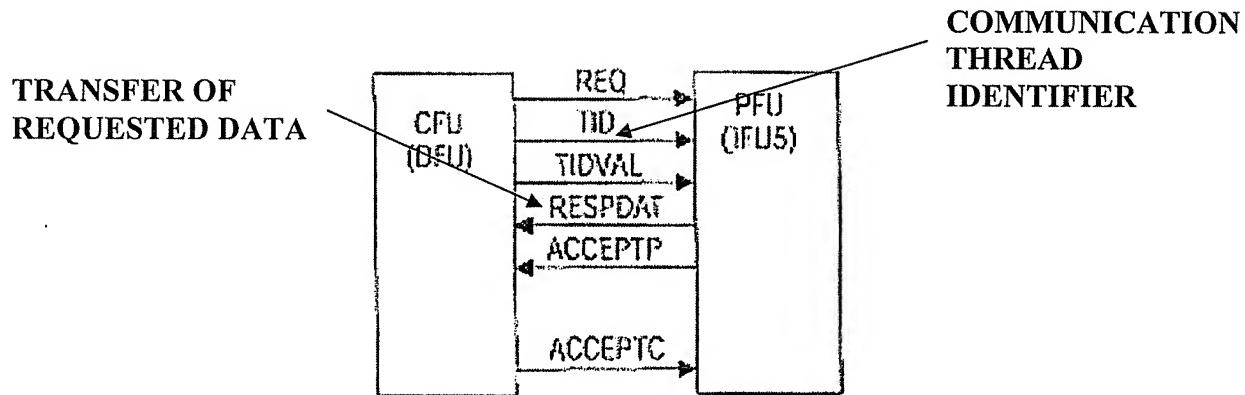


FIG.2

Accordingly, for at least the above-described reasons, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested. Favorable consideration and early issuance of the Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

Andrew C. Gust
Registration No. 47,620
Akerman Senterfitt
for David Barnes, Reg. No. 47,407
Philips Electronics North America Corporation
345 Scarborough Road
Briarcliff Manor, New York 10510
Telephone: 914-333-9693
Facsimile: 914-332-0615
File: NL030481US1